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GT Insider Article

YMCA Youth Basketball Programs

By Mark Sinclair, Y Director of Youth Sports

Did you know that the YMCA invented Basketball back in 1891? With that beginning, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA continues the tradition of teaching sports fundamentals by offering several youth basketball programs this fall and winter.

We teach the *fun*-damentals of basketball as well as teamwork, drills, and how to play your best with a focus on our 4 core values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Caring. All programs meet at the YMCA's main facility at 3000 Racquet Club Drive in Traverse City.

We are offering for kids in kindergarten to grade 2 a program that involves dribbling, basic basketball rules and how to work as a team. This will take place Mondays and Wednesday, November 2 to November 18 with a second session from November 30 to December 16 from 5 pm to 6 pm or 6pm to 7 pm. Cost is \$35 for non-members and \$15 for YMCA members. Registration deadline is October 30th.

For 3rd graders, the YMCA is offering a development basketball program where fundamentals are taught during the first half of the session and a game played the second half. This will take place Mondays and Wednesday, November 2 to November 18 with a second session from November 30 to December 16 from 5 pm to 6 pm or 6pm to 7 pm. Cost is \$45 for non-members and \$25 for YMCA members. Registration deadline is October 30th.

As a great way to prepare for leagues in January, the YMCA is offering a 4th and 5th grade basketball skills program. These will be Tuesdays and Thursdays sessions beginning November 3 to November 19 with times 5 pm – 6 pm and 6 pm – 7 pm. A second session will also be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays December 1 – December 17 with times 5 pm – 6 pm and 6 pm – 7 pm. Cost is \$45 for non-members and \$25 for YMCA members. Registration deadline is October 30th.

We offer a 3rd Grade League, 4th/5th Grade League, and 6th Grade Competitive League. Teams may have up to 11 players per team. Form your own team or be placed on a team. All players receive 2 uniform t-shirts to keep. All leagues meet on 6 Saturdays in a row at the YMCA. Deadline for all youth leagues is December 18, 2009. All leagues run January 9 - February 13, 2010. Cost is \$55 for non-members and \$35 for members per player.

The YMCA continues its tradition of mid-Winter Youth Basketball Tournaments in 2010. They feature *"The Blizzard"* 5-on-5 (boys in grades 7th/8th), *"The Classic"* 3-on-3 (3rd-6th grades), and the *"Midnight Madness"* 3-on-3 (grades 5th-9th) for non-stop hoops action. Watch our

website for all the details and announcements.

Our fall *Invent in Youth Community Appeal* provides the necessary scholarship funds and financial aid to implement the YMCA's "No One Denied" policy that assures no child is left out due to financial reasons. Donation forms available on our website. Scholarship requests must be made 3 weeks prior to the program start date, so now is the time to plan your basketball season. Financial aid request forms available at our website.

Check out over 65 great programs at www.gtbayymca.org, call us at 933-9622, check out our Facebook page, or stop in today! At the YMCA, "*We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities!*"